United Nations S/2018/394

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Recalling and *reaffirming* all its previous resolutions on Western Sahara,

Reaffirming its strong support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to implement resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), and 2351 (2017),

Expressing full support for the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara, former President Horst Köhler of Germany, and *welcoming* the engagement of the parties and neighboring states with him in his efforts to facilitate negotiations,

Reaffirming its commitment to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and *noting* the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect,

Reiterating its call upon the parties and the neighboring states to cooperate more fully with the United Nations and with each other and to strengthen their involvement and to achieve progress towards a political solution,

Recognizing that achieving a political solution to this long-standing dispute and enhanced cooperation between the Member States of the Maghreb Arab Union would contribute to stability and security, in turn leading to jobs, growth and opportunities for all the peoples in the Sahel region,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), under close review and reiterating the need for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments, and effective management of resources,

Recalling its request of the Secretary-General to ensure that data related to the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations, including peacekeeping performance data, is used to improve analytics and the evaluation of mission operations, based on clear and well identified benchmarks, *emphasizing* the need to regularly evaluate MINURSO's performance such that the mission retains the skills and flexibility needed to effectively carry out its mandate, and *noting*, in this regard, plans for an independent review of the mission later in the year,

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Recalling resolution 2242 (2015) and its aspiration to increase the number of women in military and police contingents of United Nations peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the important role played by MINURSO on the ground and the need for it to fully implement its mandate, including its role in supporting the Personal Envoy to achieve a mutually acceptable political solution,

Expressing concern about the violations of existing agreements, and *calling on* the parties to respect their relevant obligations, and refrain from any actions that could destabilize the situation or threaten the UN process, and *recognizing* the measured response of Morocco to most recent concerns regarding the buffer strip,

Taking note of the Moroccan proposal presented on 11 April 2007 to the Secretary-General and *welcoming* serious and credible Moroccan efforts to move the process forward towards resolution; also *taking note* of the Polisario Front proposal presented 10 April 2007 to the Secretary-General,

Encouraging in this context, the parties to demonstrate further political will towards a solution including by expanding upon their discussion of each other's proposals and recommitting to UN efforts in a spirit of realism and compromise, and further *encouraging* the neighboring countries to make contributions to the political process,

Taking note of the four rounds of negotiations held under the auspices of the Secretary-General and *recognizing* the importance of the parties committing to advance the negotiations process without preconditions and in good faith,

Encouraging the parties to cooperate further with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in identifying and implementing confidence-building measures that can serve to foster the trust necessary for a successful political process,

Stressing the importance of improving the human rights situation in Western Sahara and the Tindouf camps, and *encouraging* the parties to work with the international community to develop and implement independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights, bearing in mind their relevant obligations under international law,

Encouraging the parties to continue in their respective efforts to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights in Western Sahara and the Tindouf refugee camps, including the freedoms of expression and association,

Welcoming in this regard, steps and initiatives taken by Morocco, and the role played by the National Council on Human Rights Commissions operating in Dakhla and Laayoune, and Morocco's interaction with Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Strongly encouraging enhancing cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including through facilitating visits to the region,

Noting with deep concern the continued hardships faced by Sahrawi refugees and their dependency on external humanitarian assistance, and *further noting* insufficient funding for those living in Tindouf refugee camps and the risks associated with the reduction of food assistance,

Reiterating its request for consideration of a refugee registration in the Tindouf refugee camps and *emphasizing* efforts be made in this regard,

Recalling United Nations Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2250 and related resolutions; *stressing* the importance of a commitment by the parties to

continue the process of negotiations through the United Nations-sponsored talks and *encouraging* the full, effective and meaningful participation of women and active and meaningful participation of youth in these talks,

Recognizing that the status quo is not acceptable, and *noting further* that progress in negotiations is essential in order to improve the quality of life of the people of Western Sahara in all its aspects,

Welcoming the appointment of Colin Stewart as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO and *affirming* its full support for him in this capacity,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General of 29 March 2018 (S/2018/277),

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of MINURSO until 31 October 2018;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to make progress toward a realistic, practicable and enduring political solution to the question of Western Sahara based on compromise and the importance of aligning the strategic focus of MINURSO and orienting resources of the United Nations to this end;

3. *Calls upon* the parties to resume negotiations under the auspices of the Secretary-General without preconditions and in good faith, taking into account the efforts made since 2006 and subsequent developments with a view to achieving a just, lasting, and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, and noting the role and responsibilities of the parties in this respect;

4. *Further calls upon* the neighboring states to make important contributions to the political process and to increase their engagement in the negotiating process;

5. *Invites* Member States to lend appropriate assistance to these talks;

6. *Reaffirms* the need for full respect of the military agreements reached with MINURSO with regard to the ceasefire and *calls on* the parties to adhere fully to those agreements;

7. *Expresses concern* with the presence of the Polisario Front in the buffer strip in Guerguerat and *calls for* its immediate withdrawal;

8. *Expresses concern* regarding the Polisario Front's announcement of the planned relocation of administrative functions to Bir Lahlou, and *calls for* the Polisario Front to refrain from any such destabilizing actions;

9. *Recognizes* that fundamental questions related to the ceasefire and related agreements remain and *calls upon* the Secretary-General to interview the parties in an effort to better understand these issues;

10. *Calls upon* all parties to cooperate fully with the operations of MINURSO, including its free interaction with all interlocutors, and to take the necessary steps to ensure the security of as well as unhindered movement and immediate access for the United Nations and associated personnel in carrying out their mandate, in conformity with existing agreements;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of a renewed commitment by the parties to advancing the political process in preparation for a fifth round of negotiations, *recalls* its endorsement of the recommendation in the report of 14 April 2008 (S/2008/251) that realism and a spirit of compromise by the parties are essential to achieve progress in negotiations, and *encourages* the neighboring countries to make important contributions to this process;

12. *Calls upon* the parties to show political will and work in an atmosphere propitious for dialogue in order to resume negotiations, thus ensuring implementation of resolutions 1754 (2007), 1783 (2007), 1813 (2008), 1871 (2009), 1920 (2010), 1979 (2011), 2044 (2012), 2099 (2013), 2152 (2014), 2218 (2015), 2285 (2016), and 2351 (2017) and the success of negotiations;

13. *Affirms* its full support for the intention of the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy in this context to relaunch the negotiations with a new dynamic and a new spirit with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council on a regular basis, and at any time he deems appropriate during the mandate period, on the status and progress of these negotiations under his auspices, on the implementation of this resolution, challenges to MINURSO's operations and steps taken to address them, *expresses its intention* to meet to receive and discuss his briefings and in this regard, *further requests* the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation in Western Sahara well before the end of the mandate period;

15. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary General to standardize a culture of performance in UN peacekeeping, and calls on him to continue his efforts to develop an integrated performance policy framework and apply it to MINURSO, *requests* the Secretary-General to seek to increase the number of women in MINURSO, as well as to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all aspects of operations;

16. *Urges* MINURSO to continue to consider how new technologies can be used to reduce risk, improve force protection, and better implement its mandate;

17. *Encourages* the parties to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to identify and implement confidence-building measures, including to engage women and youth, and *encourages* neighboring states to support these efforts;

18. *Urges* Member States to provide new and additional voluntary contributions to fund food programmes to ensure that the humanitarian needs of refugees are adequately addressed and avoid reductions in food rations;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure full compliance in MINURSO with the United Nations zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to keep the Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including predeployment awareness training, and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

20. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.